

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO GRANT
CERTAIN EASEMENTS TO THE TOWN OF CHINCO-
TEAGUE, VA.

MAY 24, 1956.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. PRICE, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the
following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 8552]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill
(H. R. 8552) to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to grant to the
town of Chincoteague, Va., permanent easements on certain lands for
the purpose of taking subterranean water, having considered the
same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend
that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to
grant to the town of Chincoteague, Va., permanent easements over
certain land under the control of the Department of the Navy in
order to enable the town to take, on a permanent basis, subterranean
water. The land involved constitutes a portion of the naval air
station and the naval ordnance test station, Chincoteague, Va.

BACKGROUND OF THE BILL

The town of Chincoteague is situated on Chinoteague Island, which
is an inland island lying between the mainland of Accomack County
and Assateague Island. Prior to the establishment of the naval air
station, the town purchased a parcel of land on the mainland of
Accomack County and installed wells and pumps to pipe water to the
town. The establishment of the naval air station has involved a
Federal occupancy of land which has made it impossible to obtain the
contemplated supply of drinking water. The only place from which

this water can be obtained, except at prohibitive cost, is from the area now occupied by the naval air station.

NAVY ACTION

Recognizing the needs of the town for water, the Department of the Navy granted revocable permits to the town of Chincoteague. These permits have been issued on the condition that the town would seek enactment of legislation which would authorize the Secretary of the Navy to grant a permanent easement. This bill represents the fulfillment of this condition.

SITUATION TODAY

The town of Chincoteague under the existing revocable permit is drawing water from 24 active wells. These wells are the sand point type located 30 feet apart and have a draw down of 10 feet with a full recovery time of 30 minutes. Twenty-three of these wells are 60 feet deep and one is 230 feet deep. Water withdrawal is at the rate of 145 gallons per minute maximum with present consumption of 160,000 gallons per day. The existing requirement of the town of Chincoteague is estimated to be 250,000 gallons per day to provide required service for a population of approximately 5,000 people during the summer. Fifty percent of the existing town services are metered.

The present withdrawal area is located approximately 3,500 feet northeast of the closest active Navy well. This distance will be reduced to approximately 3,000 feet under the proposed lease. The town of Chincoteague proposes to install 8 additional sand point wells 60 feet deep located approximately 200 feet apart. In preparing the recommended outlease, consideration was given to the direction of flow, the source and any foreseeable future Navy requirements for withdrawals from the ground water table.

GEOLOGICAL STUDIES

According to geological studies and local observations, ground water flow is from the northwest at a flow rate of 2 feet per minute discharging into the marsh areas. All Navy wells are located west of the proposed outlease and the proposed development area for additional Navy water supply lies to the southwest of the proposed outlease. Moreover, ground water flows are tapped by the Navy wells prior to the flow reaching the area requested by the town of Chincoteague so that in case of excessive demand on the ground water supply the town of Chincoteague withdrawals could not adversely affect the Navy supply.

A continuous record of water table elevations has been maintained at this station since 1948 which is varied from a maximum elevation of 10.0 feet in 1949 to a minimum elevation of 4.6 feet in June 1951. The current water table has an elevation of 6.9 feet and has maintained this elevation with a variation of plus six-tenths and minus 1 foot since March 1953.

TERMS OF EASEMENT

It will be noted that the easements granted shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Navy deems necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

FISCAL DATA

Enactment of this measure into law will not involve the expenditure of any Federal funds.

DEPARTMENTAL DATA

Neither the Department of the Navy nor the Bureau of the Budget has any objection to the enactment of this measure into law as is evidenced by the letter dated April 27, 1956, from the Acting Judge Advocate General of the Navy which is set out below and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL,
Washington, D. C., April 27, 1956.

Hon. CARL VINSON,
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Your request for comment on H. R. 8552, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Navy to grant to the town of Chincoteague, Va., permanent easements on certain lands for the purpose of taking subterranean water, has been assigned to this Department by the Secretary of Defense for the preparation of a report expressing the views of the Department of Defense.

The purpose of this bill is to grant permanent easements over certain land under the control of the Department of the Navy, to the town of Chincoteague, Va., for the purpose of taking subterranean water. The land in question is the naval air station and the naval ordnance test station, Chincoteague, Va.

The Secretary of the Navy does not have the statutory authority to grant a permanent easement over this land but he has authorized the cognizant bureaus of the Navy to grant revocable permits to the town of Chincoteague. The permits have been issued to relieve a water shortage in the town and they have been issued on the condition that the town seek the enactment of enabling legislation which will authorize the Secretary of the Navy to grant a permanent easement.

The bill provides that the easements shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Navy deems necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

In view of the foregoing, the Department of the Navy, on behalf of the Department of Defense, interposes no objection to the enactment of H. R. 8552.

This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

The Department of the Navy has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the submission of this report on H. R. 8552 to the Congress.

For the Secretary of the Navy.

Sincerely yours,

W. R. SHEELEY,
*Rear Admiral, USN,
Acting Judge Advocate General of the Navy.*

The purpose of this journal is to provide a medium for the publication of original research, clinical reports, and other material of interest to the medical profession.

The journal is published weekly, except during the months of January and February, when it is published bi-weekly. It is published by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

The subscription price of the journal is \$5.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are sold at 15 cents.

The journal is indexed and abstracted in the following publications: Index Medicus, Current Contents, and others.

The journal is published by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. The subscription price of the journal is \$5.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are sold at 15 cents.

The journal is published by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. The subscription price of the journal is \$5.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are sold at 15 cents.

The journal is published by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. The subscription price of the journal is \$5.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are sold at 15 cents.

The journal is published by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. The subscription price of the journal is \$5.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are sold at 15 cents.

The journal is published by the American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. The subscription price of the journal is \$5.00 per annum in advance. Single copies are sold at 15 cents.